



Twenty Northwest students traveled to Jefferson City to advocate for the University at the annual Legislative Reception Feb. 7 and 8. Students spoke with Rep. Dan Hegeman about higher education budget cuts.

DARCIE BRADFORD | NW MISSOURIAN

# Fighting for funding

## Bearcats advocate for Northwest at Legislative Reception

DARCIE BRADFORD  
Managing Editor | @darcie\_jeanne\_7

Northwest students went to Jefferson City to fight the proposed 10 percent budget cut for higher education. A group of 20 Bearcats attended the annual Legislative Reception in Jefferson City Feb. 7 and 8. An event in which students traveled to the state capitol to advocate on Northwest's behalf to state representatives. Students broke up into groups of three to five and attended meetings with various representatives and committee members. This year, students were advocating for higher education funding. Gov. Eric Greitens recently proposed a 10 percent cut to the higher education budget, nearly \$70 million. The money from the cut to higher education is to be used to fund K-12 education. While Greitens called his proposed budget for the upcoming

fiscal year a common sense, conservative budget, many disagree. Rep. Delus Johnson said many in the House and Senate have already oppose the budget. "Leadership in the House and the Senate have already said no to the big budget cuts; hopefully, that is something we can all agree too," Johnson said. University President John Jasinski was also involved in fighting the budget cuts as he testified in the capitol as to why Northwest deserves state investment. In

his letter, "All That Jazz," Jasinski shared the message he would be taking to the capitol. "We know Northwest is an engine for economic development in northwest Missouri and beyond. We focus on accessibility and affordability, and our retention, completion and job placement results exceed our peers," Jasinski said. "We are doing our part, in alignment with our institutional strategic plan. My message in Tuesday's testimony will be straightforward: We bring it. Time to invest." Senior Marissa Mallon

“It is important to remember that every Northwest student has a voice when it comes to the state budget. Now is the time for them to use that voice. The stakes are too high to remain silent.”  
-senior Tara Logan

said while students were advocating for investment from the state in Northwest, the goal was to simply lobby for a reduced budget cut. "No one we spoke to, including Dr. Jasinski, said it was realistic in the current political climate to expect an investment in higher education," Mallon said. "At this point, we are working to reduce the cut as much as possible, but we are still expecting to be cut to some degree." Student Senate President senior Katie Brown said the attitude they encountered this year was significantly different than last time they went on this trip. "In previous years, it has felt that there are times where we were having to fight just to have reps listen to us, but I felt really well-received this year," Brown said. "It was nice to see higher education being considered a wide spread priority at the state level," Brown said.

SEE EDUCATION | A5

# New parking structures in the works for Northwest

MATTHEW BERRY  
Chief Reporter | @thematthewberry

The University Police Department (UPD) is looking into multiple changes to the parking for commuters on campus. The question about commuter parking was raised after a student raised concerns on Twitter. The problem, explained by University Police Chief Clarence Green, is the amount of parking near some of the academic buildings. "We have a lot of parking," Green said. "What we don't have is a lot of close parking." According to UPD's interactive parking map found on their website, the only parking available for students near Colden Hall, Lamkin Activity Center and the arts building in Lot One, which has 73 commuter spots. The discussion between UPD and the student on Twitter lead to multiple ideas being made to solve the problem. One solution is a parking structure that would be built over Lot One. The structure could be partially funded by parking permits and tickets. "The permit sales could help fund the parking garage," Green said. "We might have to increase permit prices to help fund it." The parking garage would be university-owned and enforced by UPD. Green said he estimates it would need somewhere around 250 spots, however, this is only a rough idea. "The parking garage might not be the right solution," Green said. "We have a lot of homework to do to figure out what will be the needs



MADI NOLTE | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

University Police are exploring the possibility of expanding commuter parking, including the idea of a parking garage consisting of over 250 parking spots. of that area." Green said Facility Services are looking at what the cost would be. Green says that, given the current budget, the more likely changes made will be to the existing program, "If I had to take a hunch right now, I think it's going to be programmatic changes to what we do," Green said. "(Lot) parking is a lot cheaper than a parking structure." One possible change would be reserved parking, where students could pay for a specific spot to be guaranteed to them. "We would sell you an actual space that is guaranteed to you, and if someone is in there, we will tow their car," Green said. The guaranteed spots would allow Green to offer premium parking. "You would pay extra for that because that would be really premium parking, but you would be guaranteed that spot for a period of time," Green said. Short term, Green plans to hold public forums next fall, where students and faculty alike can offer their feedback. "We agreed to have public forums starting in the fall of next year to really get some solutions," Green said. "What we have to have come within the fall of next year is some really possible programmatic changes to our parking program." The feedback is welcoming to Green, regardless of what medium. "We really encourage open dialogue, and I'm always proud when folks are willing to voice concern and come in and discuss," Green said. The date and time of the public forums are unknown. Green expects to hear back from Facility Services in the coming weeks in regards to the parking garage.

# New bill will give a voice to student journalists

ABBEY HUGO  
Chief Reporter | @TheMissourian

Missouri legislation is considering The Walter Cronkite New Voices Act for the third time. If passed, the bill will protect high school and college journalists from censorship and retaliation from the administration. Missouri State Rep. Kevin Corle presented the bill. It is backed by a large group of Missourian educators, including Missouri Western journalism instructor, and coauthor of the bill, Robert Bergland. "The bill is designed to protect high school and college students from pre-censorship," Bergland explained. "Its goal is to allow students to write the stories that need to be written to inform their communities, without the fear of outside administrative pressure." The bill will prohibit administrations from censoring student media at public high schools and universities, so long as they meet the Tinker standard for lawful and non-disruptive speech. It will defend against administrative retaliation aimed at the student journalists or student publication advisors. It will essentially overturn the decision of the 1988 Supreme Court decision of Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, which condoned the censorship of high school newspapers by school officials. Northwest Assistant Media Professor Instructor Kyle Miller feels strongly about protecting the first amendment rights of student journalists, therefore was in favor of the bill. "With student media and student publications, any legislation, like the New Voices Act, that is designed to protect student journalists, at least gives them some resources to (turn to), if they do run into an issue..." Miller said. "Any type of protection they (student journalists) have is more than welcome just so we can limit some issues they may encounter..." At this point, the New Voices Act is awaiting a vote in the Missouri House of Representatives, which may occur as early as this week. It has passed through the House's Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, as well as the Rules Committee. If approved by the House, the bill will continue onto the Senate. There, it will need to be approved by both the Education Committee and the full Senate before being brought before the governor. The first year the bill was introduced, it went through the House Committees, the House of Representatives and the Senate Education Committee, but was never placed on the Senate calendar. Last year, it passed through the House committees, the full House 148-6, the Senate Education Committee unanimously and made it onto the Senate's calendar, but was not voted on due to dysfunction in the Senate. Bergland is confident this year might be the year Missouri finally adopts the bill. He said they are ahead of schedule compared to previous years, in terms of moving through the committees. The Walter Cronkite New Voices Act is part of a national Student Press Law Center New Voices campaign. According to the New Voices website, "New Voices Act legislation was inspired by the John Wall New Voices Act of North Dakota, which passed unanimously and became law in 2015."

SEE CENSORSHIP | A5





MORGAN JONES | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

In the last decade, the opioid crisis has grown significantly, affecting people statewide as well as nationwide. The CDC reports for every 100,000 Missourians, there are 89,000 opioid prescriptions.

# Missouri lawmakers working to fight opioid epidemic

KATIE STEVENSON

News Editor | @KateSStevenson

A new bill is working its way through the Missouri legislature to help fight the states opioid epidemic.

The new bill, if passed, would establish opioid disposal kiosk in chain pharmacies like Walgreens and CVS. The kiosks would allow people with an excess amount of prescription pills to safely dispose of them, which would prevent pills from ending up in the

hands of an addict.

The opioid epidemic has been growing since the beginning of the 2000’s, but according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the problem really took off in the last decade. National and local government officials have been working to fight the addiction, including Missouri Governor Greitens, who in 2017 established a prescription drug monitoring program for the state.

In an article from Fox 4, Kansas City, Missouri, Senator Roy

Blunt said while it is obvious there is an ongoing crisis, there is very little being done to fight it. Blunt has been campaigning in Missouri to get more programs established to help those dealing with opioid addictions.

“I think there’s clearly no national solution right now, but it’s clearly understood that it’s a national problem,” Blunt said. “If you’re going to effectively address opioid addiction, we need that those suffering can access effective treatment. That needs to include mental health services.

According to the NIDA, opioids are a class of drugs which can lead to addiction and dependency. Opioids include the illegal drug heroin, as well as prescription pain pills, such as oxycodone or morphine.

Currently, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that for every 100,000 Missourians, there are 89,000 prescriptions for opioids. They also reported in 2016 alone, 60 percent of all drug overdoses in Missouri involved opioids, and Missouri is one of 22 states to reg-

ister a drug overdose rate above the national average.

Maryville Public Safety Director Keith Wood said Maryville has also been dealing with the ongoing epidemic with at least one fatality related to the drug. Wood cited the fact that Maryville currently does not have a lot of resources in regards to opioids as one possibility for the rise of opioid use in the community.

“There are resources available at the state level, but we as a local community don’t have anything going on,” Wood said. “But, for example, if people reach out to various hotlines and things of that nature, I am sure that the Missouri State Department of Health would have resources available in our local area.”

According to the CDC, in 2016, overdoses killed 12 people per 100,000 Nodaway County. And according to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, between 2011 and 2015, Nodaway County reported 37 emergency room visits due to opioid misuses.

However, Wood said Maryville

currently has a take-back program, which allows residents to drop off any unused pills to be disposed of. This event happens yearly in Maryville. Wood said he believes a constant disposal system would help, but people have to have the willingness to get rid of any dangerous prescriptions.

“I don’t think it can hurt; we already do a take-back program in the community,” Wood said. “There are still a lot of unused prescriptions left around in people’s medicine cabinets and places like that, so it still requires the initiative to take them out and get them disposed of.

Wood said the biggest problem the community currently faces is just trying to fight such a widespread and big issue.

“Unfortunately, with the current opioid crisis, it very much feels like we are in the process of playing catch up,” Wood said. “It got gigantic on us before we were able to go on the offense, so we are busy playing defense.”

# Organization connects students with teachers around the globe

RACHEL ADAMSON

Assistant News Editor | @racheladamsonxi

Education Around the World, a new campus organization, is focused to provide students with the opportunity to learn about different teaching styles from other parts of the world.

Student Senate recognized Education Around the World as a new organization Jan. 30.

Senior Brianna Wilmes collaborated along with other education majors to discuss ideas and form a mission to get this organization recognized.

According to Education Around the World their mission is: “striving to provide a fellowship for students dedicated to enriching learning experiences and opportunities for quality learning. Its members promote the ideals of a diverse educational experience through international studies, thereby ensuring a legacy of responsible educators, scholars, and leaders for the future generations to come.”

Wilmes said she hopes the organization will give students new and unique opportunities to learn and grow.

“I think that students will benefit from Education Around the World because they will be provided an opportunity to learn about educational systems in other countries,” Wilmes said. “There is a lot of talk in education about diversity, however, there are no organizations or courses that explore education in other countries, so this organization will provide students that exposure.”

Education Around the World had its first meeting Feb. 8, where



SUBMITTED

Future educators interested in Education Around the World meet for the first time, discussing international education.

members discussed the top 10 countries for education. This organization currently has 28 members involved.

At the next meeting, the organization plans to be talking with a teacher from Slovakia. Wilmes said this will provide members the opportunity to learn about international educational systems.

“We have contacted people we know, who are either teaching or student teaching abroad, that

would be willing to Zoom conference with us, and explain how the educational experience in classrooms are different compared to those we have been exposed to in the United States,” Wimes said.

Junior Victoria Holcomb helped in establishing goals for Education Around the World.

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# Hyperloop train pulls into Kansas City

**CAMERON MONTEMAYOR**  
Missourian Reporter | @CameronNWMSU

A high-speed transportation system that would have once seemed doubtful for Missouri now appears to be in serious consideration for development.

A coalition of Missouri institutions announced Jan. 30, its selection of a global engineering firm out of Overland Park to conduct a \$1.5 million feasibility study for a Hyperloop, a train-like transportation

system designed to connect Kansas City and St. Louis, allowing travel between the cities in 31 minutes.

The study will analyze the technical alignment and economic potential for a Hyperloop in Missouri.

The Hyperloop design follows the same route as Interstate 70, and plans to allow citizens to stop in multiple cities along the way, including Columbia.

The concept for a Hyperloop first appeared in early 2017, when Missouri was selected by Virgin Hyperloop One as one of its 35 semifinalists.

“With innovations like Hyperloop, we’re demonstrating that Missouri isn’t afraid to take on bold, new ideas that make our state a better place to live and do

business,” Rob Dixon said, the director of the Missouri department of economic development.

For Maryville students with homes and families on the eastern side of Missouri, the advent of a Hyperloop would eliminate a lengthy five or six hour ride by car or train.

Hannah Ziegler, a biomedical science major at Northwest, is from a city called Washington, Missouri, about an hour west of St. Louis.

She had been unaware of the progress the Hyperloop system had been making in the state until now.

“I had heard of the possibility of this project, but I thought it was more of a theoretical solution,” Ziegler said. “I did not realize how close we were to actually testing (for) this here, of all places.”

She said if a Hyperloop were constructed in Missouri,

she would be able to make short trips to her home.

“This could definitely affect the tourism in Missouri, and put Kansas City and St. Louis on a more even playing field,” Ziegler said.


According to Black & Veatch, the Overland Park engineering firm conducting the study, the results should be expected in six and eight months.

Preliminary studies carried out by the Missouri Hyperloop Coalition have helped pave the way for the announcement of this feasibility study.

The Missouri Hyperloop coalition consists of a variety of prominent government and city institutions, like the Missouri Department of Transportation, University of Missouri System and KC Tech Council.

The coalition was formed in the wake of Missouri’s failed attempt to

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31

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### END GOAL

RUNNING IN 2021

place in Virgin Hyperloop One’s top 10 list of ideal locations for a Hyperloop.

Extensive work and fundraising done to further the development of a Hyperloop has contributed to the company’s recent decision to invest more of its efforts into a Missouri project.

“We are committed to bringing this innovative mode of transportation to Missouri,” MoDOT Director Patrick McKenna said in a statement.

According to Hyperloop Director of North American Projects, Dan Katz, Missouri is now a top five route.

The Hyperloop original design was created by Tesla CEO Elon Musk and entrepreneur Shervin Pishevar, who had the idea deemed feasible by government scientists for the Obama Administration in 2013.

Pishevar and a company spent the next three years researching, investing and engineering the advanced tech-

nology for a model system capable of testing and replicating the high-speed traveling process.

Katz recently told Missouri media outlets that the company has already undergone successful simulations for the process.

“We’ve proven it works,” Katz said to the Kansas City Star. “We’ve proven the fundamentals of the system.”

If feasibility studies are confirmed, federal officials will ultimately have to determine whether the Hyperloop system can be approved for development.

To travel 247 miles in 31 minutes, the Hyperloop utilizes electromagnetic tracks that levitate and propel the system to speeds of 250 to 600 mph.

The ideas are almost identical to the technology used in Japan’s bullet trains, which run by way of electromagnetic suspension. A key difference with a Hyperloop is its enclosure inside of a

large tube, instead of the open track used by bullet trains.

This design scheme would allow the Hyperloop to be built underground if upcoming tests confirm its feasibility.

Hyperloop officials like Katz have notably stated that the system will not function as an elitist service, garnering more optimism about its availability for anyone if completed.

“The system is not going to work unless it’s accessible to the public,” Katz said.

The company’s ultimate goal is to have three Hyperloop systems running by 2021.

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OUR VIEW:

# Hyperloop carries obvious benefits

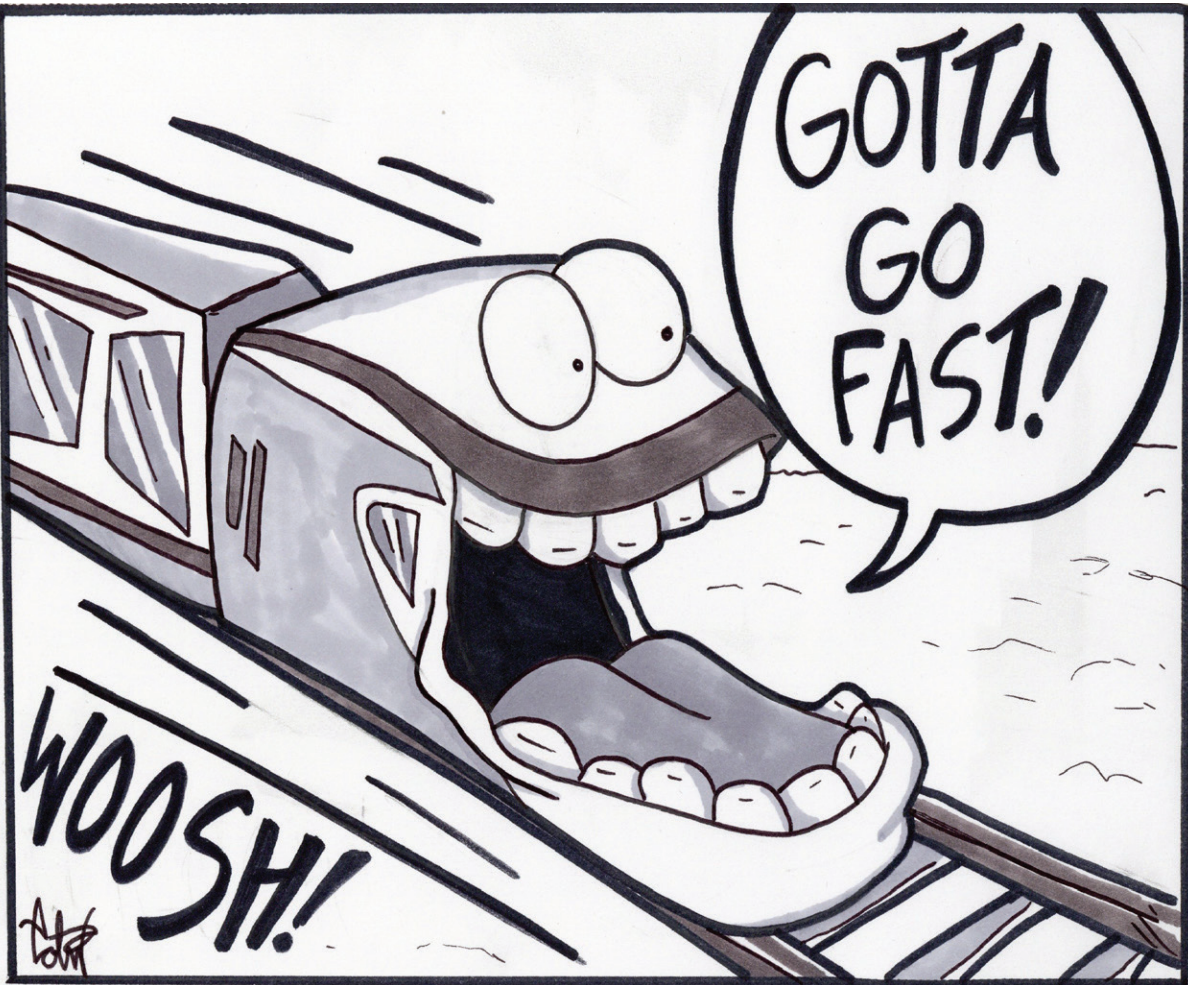
A bullet train making its way to the Show Me State wouldn't just benefit Kansas City and St. Louis, it could make an incredible impact on students from everywhere in Missouri, Bearcat or not.

Hyperloop, the train in conversation to come to the Midwest, has been talked about by SpaceX and Tesla founder, Elon Musk, since 2012. However, it wasn't until 2017 that the idea for this project would begin preparations. This futuristic locomotive essentially shoots passengers at extremely high speeds from location to location, or in this case, from St. Louis to Kansas City.

The time it would take to travel the statewide distance would only be about one hour. At this rate, the train would not only cut out the other three or so hours of the typical drive, but it would effectively eliminate any concerns of traffic or late-night drives as well. At its worst, it is just one more option for travel.

Even on the most general of levels, the bullet train serves as a major convenience for all citizens of Missouri. A convenience keeping so many potential drivers off the road in harsh weather conditions, heavy traffic or on even the sunniest day is a good thing.

Furthermore, it is impossible to ignore the 65 percent of students at Northwest alone who live in state. Hundreds of these students, new and old, have grown up in St. Louis. This significant cut in travel time means easier trips back



COLIN VAUGHAN

home and an increased likelihood for family to visit too.

Less gas money being spent and short travel times are sure to allow for at least a bi-weekly visit, something seemingly impossi-

ble at the moment.

A benefit as simple as convenience for students is obvious though.

A more unforeseen positive is the new faces Hyperloop could

bring to the picture. Maryville is about an hour away from Kansas City, but a bullet train would inevitably entice those who were initially unsure of a six-hour drive to St. Louis to reconsider. Even

for those out of state, a one-way ticket to the Western side of Missouri may be much more accessible. Hyperloop is not just a quick pass across the state; it is a way for new faces to experience the Northwest lifestyle without going out of their way at all.

One of the biggest concerns with Hyperloop is the noticeably cramped cabin space. These trains are nothing short of tubes traveling at blinding speeds, so the idea of dozens of strangers being stuffed inside sardine packaging can easily be off-putting. Additionally, because of the issue of making sure the geography can sustain such technology is all but uncertain, Hyperloop may not be something students and Midwesterners can count on just yet.

The beauty of this bullet train does not lie in its design or convenience, though. It lies in its optional utility. Hyperloop is only being proposed as a choice, not unlike choosing whether or not to suffer a cross country drive over the choice of flying. Any who take issue with the train, such as the more claustrophobic passengers, don't need to worry. Highways will always be there as a backup.

A bullet train can just be there for the tightly scheduled weekends or spontaneous trips back home. It is not trying to be the next substitute for cars, it is simply trying to present an alternative.

## Lent needs to be shown respect



JAMES CHRISTENSEN  
Opinion Columnist  
@jameschris1701

By the time this column is printed, the season of Lent will have started. While not everyone practices Christianity, it is still important to recognize some of the decisions being made by the people around us.

Lent is a period of six weeks celebrated by groups of Christians culminating in Holy Week, where Christians celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. The Lenten season starts on Ash Wednesday, which was Feb. 14 this year.

During Lent, Christians fast and give up certain items to represent the 40 days Jesus spent wandering in the desert. A majority of Christians give up meat during the Lenten season and usually eat fish on Fridays.

I just want to point out that while not everyone celebrates Lent, we all still need to be respectful about other people's religious beliefs.

In a time where people are still facing adversity for the people they love, or the religion they follow, it is important to acknowledge that everyone is different and we need to respect those beliefs.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT  
NWMISSOURIANS.COM

## Diversity does not end at race



Jasper Logan  
Contributing Columnist

"Diversity is our strength," is a mantra heard time and time again from the mouths of lawmakers, academics, pundits and the like. It has become so cliché that it has almost lost its meaning in the minds of most people. What exactly is it that is meant by "diversity?"

Diversity has been traditionally understood to mean variety. In the context of societies, it means a variety of different backgrounds represented within a group of people. However, "diversity" is often used today simply to mean greater representation of minority groups, based exclusively on physical and other characteristics beyond one's control. It means more African-

Americans, more homosexuals, more women, more Hispanics, etcetera, often to the point of overrepresentation and exclusion.

These 21st century bastions of social justice are greatly misunderstanding and misapplying the meaning of "diversity". Diversity means the representation of a variety of backgrounds, as well as a variety of viewpoints, often stemming from those backgrounds. Often, the same people clamoring for "more diversity" are the ones with the least tolerance for opinions that differ from their own.

When well-known gay conservative author and journalist Milo Yiannopoulos visited UC Berkeley at the request of Berkeley College Republicans in February 2017, riots ensued forcing the cancellation of the speech and the Berkeley College Republicans were subject to harassment by peers and administrators alike in the weeks that followed. What exactly was the

problem that these social-justice warriors had with Milo? He was "racist," "sexist" and a "fascist" in their view. In other words, antithetical to their definition of diversity despite this being pretty far from the truth.

Completely unaware of the irony in what they were doing, these self-proclaimed "anti-fascists" smashed windows and burned books to prevent the gay, Jewish man from exercising free speech.

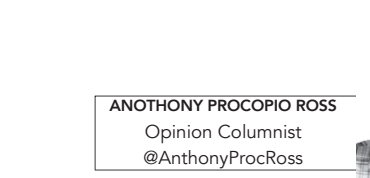
This is just one of many examples of intolerance for opposing viewpoints in the past few years. Protests and violent riots have broken out on college campuses over conservative speakers like Ben Shapiro and Ann Coulter and even liberals like Alan Dershowitz. These protests almost always stem from accusations that the speakers are intolerant of "diversity", though the protesters have zero tolerance for diverse viewpoints and are rarely even exposed

to differing viewpoints at all in the great left-wing echo chamber that America's higher education system has become.

"The next time some academics tell you how important diversity is, ask how many Republicans there are in their sociology department," renowned African-American economist Thomas Sowell once said.

Diversity of opinion is at least as, if not more important, than diversity of physical characteristics. How is one expected to learn and grow as a person if they are never confronted with opinions that they don't agree with? The amount of melanin in one's skin, their genitals or who they are attracted to are arguably irrelevant. Those things should not define who someone is as a person. It's what you believe in, the insight you've gathered from your life experiences and your character that defines you.

## Starbucks: now selling narcissism



ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS  
Opinion Columnist  
@AnthonyProcRoss

I find myself many mornings at the mercy of a line leading to my favorite caffeinated drink. The horrors I have witnessed within that line have made me rethink my entire Starbucks experience.

Between the technological phone glare reflecting off every bored expression present and the sickly smell of morning breath in the air, I find myself at a loss as to why I am even present. Then I remember why I came, and I look down at my phone hoping that liking another cat video will make my morning more bearable.

I see Becky talking to Brittany about why Brian never picks up his phone to hear about Becky's friends baby shower while their barista types in a BOGO deal

to sedate their moral anguish with coffee beans. This all seems too absurd to be anything close to real. I convince myself that the coffee will fix my annoyed state of mind.

The person behind me sneezes and I brace for what I'm sure to be the plague. Immediately, the whole crowd, in a drone-like fashion, turns to look at the infected and all shift a little away. This is the most life I've seen in anyone all morning.

I'm closer now and I hear someone complaining about how their caramel macchiato didn't taste right before another barista patiently explains to her that she'd asked for a double pump of espresso, too. The espresso wasn't helping anyone in the situation, especially not me. The vain nature of the Starbucks line rattled my decaf brain to beyond boiling.

The person in front of me fumbled through their pockets looking for loose change, I hated them in this moment because this would be me seconds later. Through this hatred I came to a realization, Starbucks was quite literally pulling

me apart. I had been made to loath people in common, everyday situations, yet still participating in them as they did.

It was my turn now. I paid for my drink and sat down. Now waiting, I realized what addiction and overstimulation could do to people, myself included. The red screen that had only moments before represented my view of the world subsided. My cup came into focus as my name was called and all felt right again.

Legal drugs can have huge effects on people that don't understand their consequences. Businesses like Starbucks profit off of this ignorance and sell it in a heat-sealing cup. While we all have vices, I feel caffeine tends to be a common go-to for college students.

I left, gripping my cup, knowing still that I'd be going back tomorrow. I fear that even through knowing that fact, Starbucks has us in a position to where we couldn't care less. They're playing the biggest game of cat-and-mouse with our brains. I'll let you guess who the cat is.



EDUCATION  
CONTINUED FROM A1

“I think the legislatures recognize the severity of this situation and are taking more necessary steps to ensure the preservation of public universities.”  
Brown said her encounters with representatives were mostly positive and encouraging.

“What was reassuring for my group was the continued theme of, ‘it’s just a proposal’ in reference to the governor’s wish to cut higher education funding. To know that legislatures were against the governor’s proposal was reassuring for students across the state,” Brown said.

While students may have been received this year better than the last, hindrances remained.

Junior Emily Smith said the biggest issue she encountered was while it was generally agreed upon that the system encompassing higher education and how to fund it was broken, rarely were solutions offered.

“The biggest issue we ran into was that no one was willing to take some responsibility for their part in the system, which unfairly punishes and or cuts universities’ funding,” Smith said. “For the most part, people agreed that the system was flawed, but offered no solution nor any genuine interest in fixing the system. They would rather displace blame and take no responsibility for their complacency.”

Junior Alyssa Lincoln echoed some of Smith’s frustration.

“We kept getting told that someone has to sacrifice, and making that decision is hard and extremely political.”

Senior Marissa Mallon said during a meeting the Legislative Reception group had with Greitens’ policy director, Will Scharf, students were successful in conveying their concerns.

“I felt we did a great job having multiple voices in the room stressing that those students in K-12 still needed teachers and other adults who have higher education degrees,” Mallon said. “When those kids graduate, they will need a strong higher education institution to attend. It’s unfortunate that the governor and his office don’t



DARCIE BRADFORD | NW MISSOURIAN

Students meet with the governors’s Policy Director Will Scharf to discuss higher education and performance based funding Feb. 7.

prioritize higher education, although he is a highly educated man himself.”

Part of the meeting was devoted to discussing potential solutions for fixing the way the state views and gives funding to public institutions. Lincoln said, during the meeting with Scharf, treating all universities the same doesn’t make sense.

Scharf said he agreed with Lincoln noting Northwest’s responsible use of public funding.

“If I look at my spreadsheets of our four year institutions, two year institutions, Northwest is close to the top in terms of how good it is at spending public money, that’s why the way we do budgeting around higher education doesn’t make much sense,” Scharf said.

Scharf also said he believes the way in which the state looks at all

universities, the system for higher education funding is broken, but a possible solution could be on the horizon.

“I think in general our higher ed sector in this state has real deep structural problems,” Scharf said. “What we are looking to do is move higher education toward a performance based funding mechanism where we can reward schools who are doing a good job and invest fewer resources relatively in schools we think are not doing a good job.”

Performance-based funding is a funding method which rewards public universities who meet performance criteria with higher investment and devotes less investment to universities who did not meet the criteria.

Scharf said the best thing stu-

dents can do to bring higher education to the forefront of the minds of representatives is to be involved.

“Jeff City is out here on an island; people here don’t interact all that often with the people whom their decisions affect,” Scharf said. “Meet with your reps and senators... make sure they are aware of what your concerns.”

While the meeting students held with Scharf fostered productive conversation, Smith said she is frustrated at the thought of performance-based funding.

“I think it’s frustrating to talk about ‘performance-based funding’ when Northwest outperforms most other universities in the state,” Smith said. “We are meeting many (if not all) of these requirements, and yet our funding is still being cut. When I asked ‘so, if we are already meeting those requirements what more then can we be doing to not be cut?’ There was no answer, and that is very frustrating.”

Reflecting on the meeting with Scharf, Mallon said she was disappointed to hear plans to build new prisons in Missouri.

“It was unfortunate to hear from Will Scharf that they want to build not one, but two new prisons in Missouri when they should be funding programs to reduce prison populations,” Mallon said. “It’s an ounce of prevention versus a pound of cure. By funding these programs now, they can reduce the prison population significantly and potentially not have to build these two new prisons, which will require even more state funding than what they already receive.”

Lincoln echoed Mallon’s frustration.

“Education has historically been a vehicle to lift families out of poverty, decrease crime rates, along with countless economic benefits. It seems like a no-brainer

to invest in higher education, then we wouldn’t need to build two new prisons,” Lincoln said.

Rep. Kathryn Swan said another issue is that not everyone in the capitol understands the value of education.

“You’ve got your representatives, 163 of them and not everyone has a college in their district and not every one of them has a college degree... They may not see the value in it,” Schwan said.

Senior Tara Logan said the one thing comforting her amidst the fear of budget cuts is the budget is not yet set in stone.

“There are many other factors that come into play before a final budget is made. One of these things is the sway that the budget committee holds. They have a lot of power when it comes to how much money each department and program in the state receives for the upcoming fiscal year. While the legislative reception is important, the fight doesn’t stop there,” Logan said.

Logan said it is vital that students contact their representatives and remind them why funding higher education is important.

“Our state elected officials, especially the governor and those who are on the budget committee, need to hear from all Northwest students,” Logan said. “If any other students are upset about the budget proposal and the effect that the cuts would have on the university, they should call the representatives in Jefferson City. It is important to remember that every Northwest student has a voice when it comes to the state budget. Now is the time for them to use that voice. The stakes are too high to remain silent.”



DARCIE BRADFORD | NW MISSOURIAN

(From left to right) Junior Alyssa Lincoln, senior Julieta Medrano, junior Sumnima (Su) Rana, senior Marissa Mallon, sophomore Asma Hassan discuss their strategies in the capitol building before speaking to Missouri representatives Feb. 7.

CENSORSHIP  
CONTINUED FROM A1

It was when Steve Listopad, who spearheaded the New Voices Act in North Dakota, spoke at the Walter Cronkite Conference on Media Ethics and Integrity at Missourian Western’s Walter Cronkite Memorial, that Bergland was inspired to create the Walter Cronkite New Voices Act.

Bergland said Listopad challenged the audience to create their own law to defend student journalists within their state, and he decided to accept the challenge. It was then that he reached out the Missouri Western alumnus Elijah Haahr, who was the state representative for the Cronkite New Voices Act up until last year.

Fourteen states, including Iowa, Illinois, Arkansas and Kansas, have passed New Voices legislation. Missouri is one of six states where New Voices legislation is currently pending.

In Missouri, the New Voices bill has received support from the Missouri Press Association and the Missouri College Media Association. The hearings have included

testimonies from high school journalists, college journalists, professors and members of the Student Press Law Center. Cathy Kuhlmeier Frey, the plaintiff at the Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier trial, has even testified.

“The students have been especially impressive in the testimony of the importance on this bill in their future careers,” Bergland said.

According to Bergland, the bill has received no significant opposition. The school administrators lobbying has been the only group to express concern, and those concerns were from a purely public relations standpoint, relevant to giving students that level of freedom.

“The news is going to get out... In many ways, that law is completely antiquated as far as being able to censor when there are so many other avenues for students to share news in an uncensored venue,” Bergland said. “It makes it all the more important to have a reputable, researched, well-sourced, and verified source of info in an environment like that. You’d think the administration would prefer to have that kind of reliable information.”

Bergland expressed that freedom of the press may be more important now than ever before.

“If we’ve learned anything over the past year, it is the importance of good journalism and the importance of journalism in a democratic society. And that starts at the high school level,” Bergland said. “As far as developing our student journalists, if they are being raised potentially in an environment of censorship, we are not training journalists; we are training public relations specialists.”

Miller agrees that students’ rights to cover any important story need to be protected.

“The first amendment guaranteeing a free press means that they (student publications) have an obligation to report on what they see as the biggest news going on in the campus or around the community,” Miller said. “When you get to censorship, now you’re getting into some sort of control of the news, and it should be the editor, or the general manager, or the news director, whether it’s print, radio or TV, that guides the content of the paper and guides where it is at.”

APPROPRIATIONS

Student Senate appropriated \$1200 to African Student Organization: Taste of Africa.



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# HOROSCOPES



**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Contradictions should not surprise you this week, Virgo. Focus on fixing as much as you can while you have an opportunity to do so. It’s a big job.

**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, you make friends easily, and this week your social circle figures to expand even further. Embrace this opportunity and enjoy beginning a new relationship.

**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, some of your most innovative ideas may be met with lukewarm responses. Do not let this derail your plans. You just need to be a little more persuasive.

**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
You are very good at giving others credit, Sagittarius. But this week people may be singing your praises. It’s fine to be modest about it, but don’t downplay your contributions.

**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, do not fear if you seem to be falling out of sync with a close friend. There will be ample opportunities to rekindle the relationship. Right now you may need a breather.

**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, a romantic relationship can be taken to a new level when buried desires come to the surface. Give yourself plenty of time to pursue these feelings.

**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, this is a week when you want to double-check everything that you do. Be sure to dot every “I” and cross every “T.” Details matter.

**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
There is strength in numbers if you align yourself with the right team, Taurus. Collaboration is the name of the game this week. Jockey for your position, but share the work.

**GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, if you are approaching an emotional overload, you will need to schedule time to decompress. Find an activity that relaxes you and delve into that to clear your head.

**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, you are the eternal optimist this week. As a result, you may not be able to accurately assess all situations. Ask a friend for advice before making any big decisions.

**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, even if you have been relatively good at managing money, you may need to tighten the pursestrings for the next few weeks. Financial discipline now will pay dividends later.

# DIVERSIONS

## Paranormal Inactivity



COLIN VAUGHN | NW MISSOURIAN

# PETS OF THE WEEK

MAC



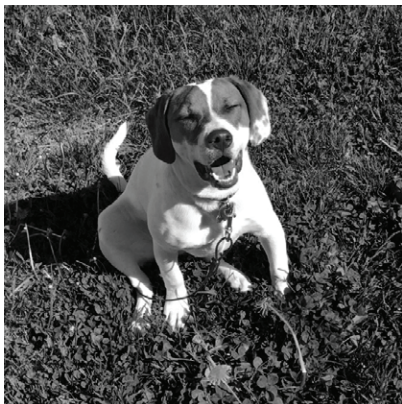
Human: Joesph Lafasciano

**Age:** Old Enough to Know When You’re Lying About Treats  
**Weight:** Approx. 13 Boxes of Treats  
**Fluff Factor:** 2/10  
**Snuggle Factor:** 13/10 Would Snuggle

**Likes:** Nibblin  
**Dislikes:** Ping-pong Ball Noises  
Snoozin Dropping His Toys  
Zoomin The Cold

**Occupation:** Instagram Model (@MacsMayhem)

**Motto:** “Adopt, don’t shop. Plz stop.”



## LAST WEEK’S SOLUTIONS

6	8	9	1	5	4	2	3	7
1	2	3	8	7	9	5	4	6
5	4	7	6	2	3	1	8	9
7	6	2	5	4	8	9	1	3
8	3	5	9	1	2	7	6	4
4	9	1	3	6	7	8	5	2
2	7	6	4	8	5	3	9	1
3	5	4	7	9	1	6	2	8
9	1	8	2	3	6	4	7	5

S	A	R	I			A	R	M	A	D	A					
A	T	O	N			C	E	N	T	E	N	A	R	Y		
C	H	A	T			M	D			C	O	B	I	A		
R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N		P	C		
U	N	T	I	E	D		O	A	F	S		N	O	H		
M	A	S	T			P	A	C	E		C	O	S	T		
						P	H	O	T	O		A	R	E	T	E
P	R	A	G	U	E					A	B	U	S	E	R	
L	E	G	A	L		O	S	M	I	C						
A	S	A	P		P	R	A	G		A	C	E	D			
C	I	R		F	E	A	R		G	E	M	I	N	I		
A	D		G	R	A	N	D	P	A	R	E	N	T	S		
R	U	P	E	E			I	A			B	E	A	U		
D	E	F	E	N	D	A	N	T			A	M	I	S		
			S	A	B	L	E	S			S	A	L	E		

# SUDOKU

8		2				6		
6					1	8		
		7			3		9	4
	3		4		7			8
				3			7	
								5
			8			9	3	
		6						2
		1	2					

# CROSSWORD

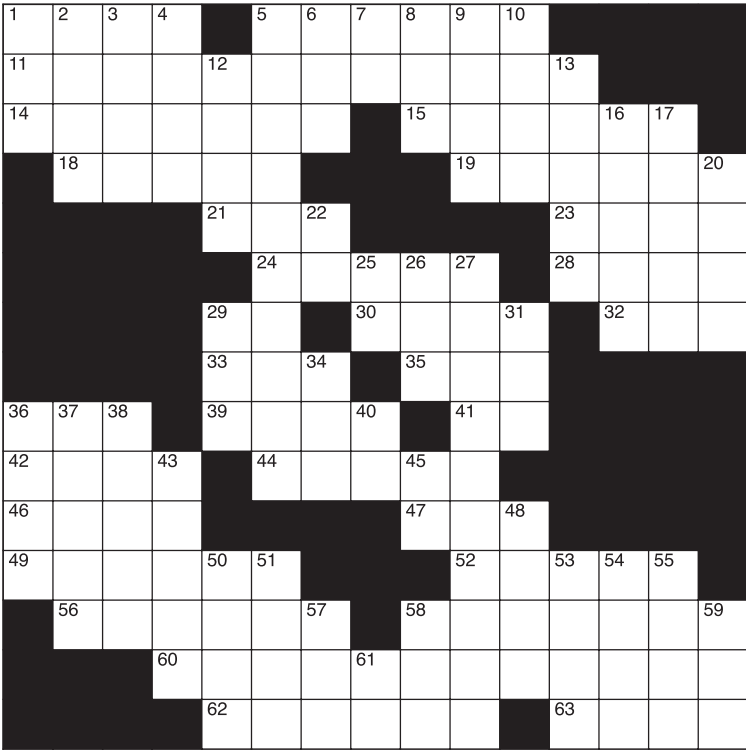
By MetroCreative

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Emperor of Russia
- 5. Abounding in rocks
- 11. Increase in speed
- 14. Music app
- 15. Not nice
- 18. Tables (Span.)
- 19. Decomposes
- 21. \_\_ student: learns healing
- 23. Nursemaid
- 24. Joke-teller
- 28. Male parent
- 29. Group of countries (abbr.)
- 30. “Rambling Rose” actor Lukas
- 32. Midway between south and southwest
- 33. Cartoon Network (abbr.)
- 35. Peacock network
- 36. Principal ethnic group of China
- 39. Made of fermented honey and water
- 41. Exclamation of surprise
- 42. Evaluates skill or knowledge
- 44. Stage in ecological succession
- 46. Ethnic group of SE Asia
- 47. Not small
- 49. A cat is one
- 52. Broken piece
- 56. French president
- 58. Artist’s workroom
- 60. Ability to apply knowledge and skills
- 62. Visually stunning
- 63. Ancient region south of Dead Sea

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used to pour beer
- 2. Con game
- 3. Skin disorder



- 4. Communists (slang)
- 5. Subjects to hostility
- 6. A major division of geological time
- 7. Hitting statistic (abbr.)
- 8. British thermal unit
- 9. Influential envoy to Woodrow Wilson
- 10. Fits on neck of animal
- 12. Fertile soil
- 13. Type of battery
- 16. Khoikhoi peoples
- 17. Consist of two parts
- 20. Small group of trees
- 22. Execute or perform
- 25. Millihenry
- 26. 007’s creator
- 27. Associated with esoteric doctrine
- 29. Electronic countermeasures

- 31. Schenectady County Airport
- 34. No (Scottish)
- 36. Position of leadership
- 37. Statement
- 38. Raccoons belong to this genus
- 40. One who diagnoses
- 43. True mosses
- 45. Blood type
- 48. Albanian
- 50. Emergency response notification system
- 51. College reservists
- 53. Away from wind
- 54. Tough outer layer
- 55. Art \_\_, around 1920
- 57. Born of
- 58. The greatest of all time
- 59. Georgia rockers
- 61. Natural logarithm

## MARYVILLE WEATHER FORECAST

PROVIDED BY WEATHER.COM

THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
46° 14°	31° 20°	46° 30°	45° 24°	33° 17°	30° 18°





MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

The spirit of Roberta Steel watches over Roberta Hall and is one of the many fabled ghosts on Northwest's campus.

# Bearcat Ghosts

## Campus hauntings tell frightening stories of history

**MICHAEL CRIPE**  
A&E Editor | @MikeCripe

Roberta Steel may not ring a bell to the average student because to most, she is known as the legendary ghost of Roberta Hall.

She was once a regular student. Then one night while showering, the Women's Residence Hall caught fire, eventually leading to her death. Since her passing, the women's residence hall has been renamed to honor the fallen student.

A decade or so after her death, rumors and stories started to circulate about a supposed ghost haunting the hall.

Stories range from some hear-

ing up uninvited. Then again, depending on the perspective, the ghosts are not necessarily the ones trespassing.

Senior Instructor Jason Offutt, who has been at Northwest since August 2005, is known as somewhat of a local expert on the extraordinary. Offutt has written a myriad of blog posts, novels and interviewed dozens of individuals on their personal ghost stories. Furthermore, he has some stories of his own.

"When I was about eight or nine years old I saw a full-bodied apparition in my house," Offutt said. "I walked out of my room one afternoon to grab a book and there was a little boy standing in the hallway. He had brown hair, a blue flannel shirt, he was looking right at me and I could see the bookshelf through him."

Since this day Offutt has researched all things paranormal, not just to understand, but because he loves it. He says he is often labeled a ghost hunter, but this is untrue, as Offutt says at the end of the day, he is a journalist.

Senior Allison Buckley lives in Roberta Hall and has seen Steel's interactions first hand.

"My roommate was near the bathroom door and all of a sudden everything was thrown off the shelves in the shower onto the floor, and the door flew open," Buckley said. "There was another time I was laying on my side trying to go to sleep and I felt someone, I kid you not, scratch across my back and I just felt an eerie presence. I didn't sleep that night."

There are local ghost stories in every town, and Maryville is no exception. What sets the Midwest town apart from most, both geographically and paranormally, is the university itself.

Almost every lecture hall, dorm or building in general at Northwest has some sort of myth or legend tying it to the afterlife. Wells Hall, the alumni house and of course Roberta Hall all have a story or two regarding out of the ordinary occurrences.

Samantha Gaither, senior economics major, has had her fair share of experiences with the afterlife, but where her encounters happen may come as a bit of a surprise.

"There have been a couple of times at night when we are in the basement of the alumni house and we will hear a chair roll across the floor upstairs," Gaither said. "There have also been times when lamps will be turned off and then randomly turn on. Sometimes,

we'll randomly hear a door slam shut."

Phantoms come in all shapes and sizes and are not tied to any one specific location, so it is important to remember that ghosts like Roberta did not necessarily die in the building they famously haunt.

For example, most of the Maryville population believes Steel died in the 1951 fire, but this is false information. Steel was badly injured in the fire, yes, but she lived on for another year until her injuries got the best of her. A spirit may 'haunt' a location or building not because it is where they passed, but because it is where they spent most of their time or had the most emotional attachment.

These are all just stories though and are a far cry away from presenting any information not already offered in documentaries or internet tales. There are, however, a few stories on campus able to send a chill down the spine of even the most resistant of horror fanatics.

Victoria Bailey, an employee with Gladstone Public Safety, attended Northwest from 2010-2015. Her story takes place in 2013 and involves her encounter with a yearbook staff member and student, Amos Wong.

"I was working at KXCV from 5:30 a.m. until noon. I kept catching glimpses of something or I guess in this case someone, in the observation windows of the studios," Bailey said. "If you're familiar with them, we would sit without back to the glass, but a lot of the times the computers pick up reflections from the window."

It was at this point Bailey started seeing someone standing or walking by the windows. He had dark hair and was wearing a blue polo and khakis.

"I did what research I could and found out there was a young man who died in 1991 on his way home from NW," Bailey said. "Of course, no pictures were posted so I went to where all of the old yearbooks were and grabbed 1990 and 1991."

After some guidance from Offutt, Bailey continued looking through the 1991 section of the yearbook.

There he was, Amos Wong, the same man who she had been seeing in the halls was the exact same yearbook photographer who died in 1991 in a car accident on his way back from Northwest. The pictures matched perfectly.

Again, even after a story as

uniquely strange as Bailey's, it can be hard to understand or believe the stories so often thrown around. One of the biggest questions some might have regards the likelihood someone would even see a ghost while they are by themselves. Why do ghosts only appear during one on one situations or at nighttime when things are especially spooky?

Offutt has his explanation for this discrepancy, and it may be more obvious than many like to believe.

"If we were sitting here talking and a full bodied apparition was just walking down the hall, of course I wouldn't notice him," I'm engaged in (a conversation)



SUBMITTED | NORTHWEST ARCHIVES

Steele was hospitalized after the fire and later died from her injuries.

ing a stranger walk through their room in the middle of the night to seeing the doorknob turn even though no one is on the other side. If one thing is for sure, it is these stories are not isolated incidents. These stories have been ongoing since before 1980.

Myths make their way through dorm hallways, especially during a student's first year when tales of apparitions can be most impactful. Some may think Ouija boards are the only way a ghost will visit someone in their cozy dorms, but those with experience know Steel or any of the other spirits haunting the campus are not afraid of show-



SUBMITTED | NORTHWEST ARCHIVES

The Women's Residence hall caught fire in the middle of the night.

and there are people in the building. We are preoccupied with other things, it's the daytime. I hear laughing down the hall right now. Who is to say that's not a ghost?"

It may take seeing to begin believing, but the evidence gathered throughout the years is more solid than the ghosts haunting the campus grounds. Steel may be the most notorious spirit roaming dorm hallways, but she is far from the only ghost on campus. The legendary Bearcats haven't gone anywhere for decades and they show no signs of leaving anytime soon.

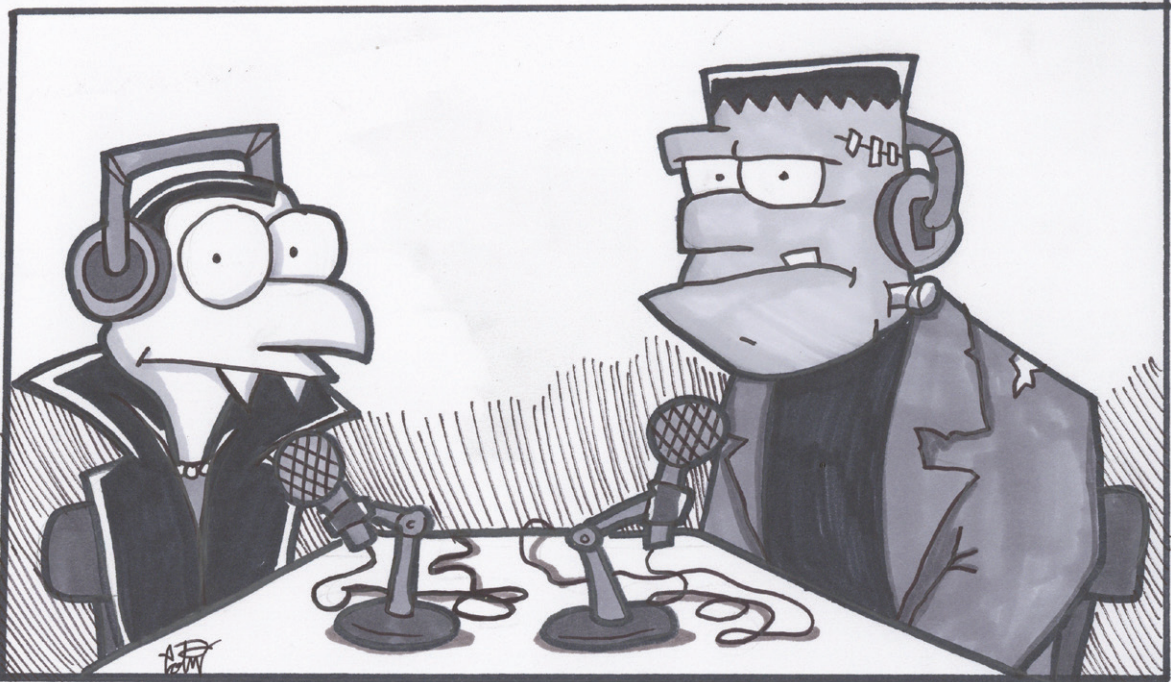
It is as the saying goes: once a Bearcat, always a Bearcat.



# Horror podcast offers quality scares

SARAH VON SEGGERN  
A&E Reporter | @TheMissourian

In a podcast filled with equal parts horror, facts and laughter, two young hosts strive to entertain those with an unfathomable curiosity and a sense for the paranormal. “The Right Wrong Turn” is a podcast that delves into local paranormal and true crime stories. Freshman political science major Tyler Bears and freshman writing major and minor in advertising Mason Arnold created “a podcast that goes bump in the night” with the first episode airing Feb. 9. For future episodes, the schedule will include weekly updates with postings mainly on Fridays or Saturdays. The podcast already has a variety of listeners who are showing their support. Maryville High School senior Jordan Wiederholt



COLIN VAUGHAN | NW MISSOURIAN

enjoyed listening to Bears and Arnold’s local stories. “I like their personal commentary on the stories,” Wiederholt said. “They make the stories come to life and it makes you feel like you’re learning something new.” If the guys aren’t scaring their audiences first with their too-close-to-home stories, then they’re making them laugh with their light-hearted and quirky personalities. The easy-flowing banter they create shows just how strong a friendship these two have on and off the podcast. Even though Bears and Arnold are new to the podcasting realm, they have high hopes and aspirations. “We (want to) have 3 million

listeners and we (want to be) on Spotify listeners as well as Pandora,” Arnold said. “... We’re just going to shoot for the stars.” Bears being the ever so clever guy came back with an immediate response. “We are stars,” Bears said. “That’s what I want us to be. I want to be shaking hands with Tom Cruise and the president, why not?... I really hope that within a year, people will be like, ‘hey, you’re that guy from the podcast.’ Like ‘Yeah I am, what do you want to know about it?’” With \$400 invested in the extra equipment they needed, they have proven their dedication for the success of their podcast. When Bears first got the no-

tion to start a podcast, he simply couldn’t get it out of his mind even after countless rejections from the many friends he asked. It wasn’t until Arnold came to him and asked if he wanted to start a podcast together that “The Right Wrong Turn” began to come to life. “What’s not to love about paranormal stuff and true crime, especially just in the local area because that’s where we plan on keeping it at,” Bears said. With their focus mainly on the Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska areas, Bears and Arnold plan to spark an interest by bringing in unheard of local stories. **SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURIENEWS.COM**

# Visiting Writers brings space for vivid poetry, learning

MEKA WRIGHT  
A&E Reporter | @itstheredhair\_

The Student Union Living Room transformed into a welcoming atmosphere of healing and serenity through the words of talented poetic reciting of personal struggle and growth. The Department of Language, Literature and Writing welcomed students to the Visiting Writers Series, featuring poets E.J. Koh and Amy Meng Feb. 8. Sponsored by Tower Press and the Language, Literature and Writing department, the Visiting Writers Series has seen much success, bringing authors and poets from across the country to share their creative works with the Northwest campus. Welcomed by professor of English Daniel Biegelson and senior Courtney Cauley, E.J. Koh stood at the mic, and encapsulated students with her life journey through excerpts from her book “A Lesser Love.” Her words mesmerized the intimate gathering. Passages students previously read came to life with her voice. Her passions weaved through her words as she described her encounters in love, sorrow and maturation. English major Courtney Cauley’s experience was one she’d re-

member, as the live reading gave her brand new insight and meaning of Koh’s book. “I definitely saw it come alive in a different way than when I was reading it on my own,” Cauley said. “...I found that a lot of the poems spoke to me more.” Koh’s words depict her struggles as a 14-year-old Korean immigrant, alone in America. Each of her poems represented a different facet of herself and her experience. While her poems would seem focused on the hardships of being a Korean woman, her writing was able to captivate the entire room, lending empathetic understanding to everyone. “...It (Koh’s poems) felt more universal having her read it,” Cauley said. “When I read it, I was in the box of it coming from her experience as a Korean woman and her personal history... but it can apply to everybody.” As Koh said her final peace, Amy Meng took control of the room with passages from her book “Bridled”, a reverse chronological telling of tattered relationships that involve love, politics and self-worth. Meng touched a different part of the growing connection within the living room. Her lessons in the correlation between the desire for love and her own feelings



TAYLOR LEGRONE | NW MISSOURIAN

Visiting writer Amy Meng reads a collection of poems out of her book “Bridled” as part of the Visiting Writers Series Thursday, Feb. 8.

of self-validation coaxed a bitter-sweet atmosphere from the crowd. Her words soft, yet hard, punched gut-wrenching, tell-tale feelings of heartache, accompanied by pleasure. “Love felt like a desired game (I) had to win... a sense of self validation and self worth,” Meng said

during her reading. “How would I know if someone did not tell me.” As each poem ended and another began, Meng described her innermost emotions she felt when she wrote the poems. Her tales of her mistakes in love and heart-break were a guiding tool for others to feel.

# THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat needs parking options

There are a million and one ways you can spend \$90 and a parking pass shouldn’t be one of them. I mean there are so many different ways to spend that money. You could buy a giant beach ball on Amazon, a month’s worth of Chick-fil-A or better yet helping pay off your student loans. With the winter weather upon us, naturally many people have been driving to and from classes despite the buildings being so close to each other. The amount of drivers versus the amount of parking spaces available has become increasingly unbalanced. For those of us who drive, we waste 20 minutes trying to find a legal parking spot close to our destination. By the time we finally accomplish this goal, we are 50 blocks away and already late to class. At this point it would have just been better to bike or walk making the parking pass worthless. Doesn’t it only seem logical that we would have more parking? Has anybody ever actually complained about having too much parking? If this simple need can’t be met then the money we spend on accessing university parking lots is a complete rip off. The school could tunnel the money they get from selling passes towards more conveniently located parking lots. Honestly the worst place to park is around the Union since there’s limited parking and it’s not even open until after most classes have ended for the day. What’s even crazier is the fact that Brown Hall, Colden Hall and the Student Union are possibly some of the most used buildings on campus and there’s not a single parking lot students can use for their classes there. For the most part, it’s out of the people’s control as we cannot create the space needed for more parking lots. Since the underwhelming amount of parking spaces has become such a hassle, people shouldn’t even bother paying the \$90 fee for their parking pass.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*



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# Masked hero takes to social media in the form of Batman to save students from the shadows

MEKA WRIGHT  
A&E Reporter | @itstheredhair\_

The mystery behind Northwest’s vigilante advice hero has stumped many, creating a custom craving for the Life Advice Batman’s insight on all things college, love and life. And he’s only just beginning his journey of unprecedented guides to surviving the four to five years of college life. Life Advice Batman is popular among many students, however there are still some who ask ‘Who is Life Advice Batman? And what is he doing?’ While Life Advice Batman’s identity has yet to be revealed, the incognito superhero has managed to obtain a significant fanbase as he moves through campus silent and unseen, dispersing unmeasurable counsel to fellow Bearcats via bulletin posting, social media and even personally tailored advice for those who request. Though, Life Advice Batman declined an interview, in interest of undisclosed identity, our inconspicuous hero has left us with valued words of wisdom. Valentine’s Day

may not have gone as planned for some students, but our mysterious hero encourages the confessions of love, no matter what the result. Quoting Federico Garcia Lorca, “To burn with desire and keep quiet about it is the greatest punishment we can bring on ourselves,” Life Advice Batman said. “When someone is feeling unrequited love, they should let it be known. The worst thing that could happen is rejection, which is by no means a fun experience, but it is far greater than never knowing,” Life Advice Batman said. “Who knows, maybe the other person feels the same.” Relentless motivation is something our curious life coach has targeted as well, keep the flow of brain fuel in these lonely winter month’s is the kick in the butt some may need. “Finding a hobby or some way to pass the time is an effective way to keep one’s mind off of loneliness,” Life Advice Batman said. “That’s not to say that it is something that should be ignored, but dwelling on loneliness is worse. Some good hobbies include writ-

ing, playing games or dressing up in an armored suit to fight criminals at night.” Assistant librarian Brandy Brady is among the fan base that Life Advice Batman has acquired. The superhero and Brady have had previous encounters even before arriving on the Northwest campus. “I first heard about Life Advice Batman when one of my former students brought a flyer to my office,” Brady said. “Before I came to Northwest, I worked as a librarian in the creator’s school district which is where I met him.” Life Advice Batman’s interactions on the campus is one of meaning and positivity, something Brady admires. “I think seeing Life Advice Batman interact with campus more would be positive for everyone,” Brady said. “Many times we are surrounded by negativity via mainstream media and social media. Anytime there is an opportunity to spread positivity and connect with people then we should do what we can even if it is as an anonymous superhero.”



WRINKLE  
CONTINUED FROM A12

Pittsburg State enters the Feb. 15 matchup looking to end Northwest’s dominance over the Gorillas over the past three seasons.

Led by former Mizzou coach Kim Anderson, McCollum considers the Gorillas to be dominant behind their many dominant athletes.

“They play at a different level of intensity than we are used to,” McCollum said. “They aren’t overly tense; it’s more of a NBA style game, which makes it difficult to play against.”

On the other hand, Northwest looks to find redemption over Missouri Southern Feb. 17.

Since 2009, the Bearcats are 7-9 in regular season contests with the Lions. The latest loss came as Missouri Southern knocked off Northwest Jan. 4.

NEXT GAMES
<b>Pittsburg State @ Northwest</b> Feb. 15 @ 7:30 p.m.
<b>Missouri Southern @ Northwest</b> Feb. 17 @ 3:30 p.m.

“They competed,” Witthus said. “They played really hard. We just got to come out with a lot of energy and clean up the mistakes we have had.”

Whether Pitts gets much minutes in either of the games, McCollum says Northwest has the ability to survive without him on the floor.

“I have a lot of confidence in the guys we have,” McCollum said. “We’ll just continue to play if he’s out in the future at any point.”



FILE PHOTO | NW MISSOURIAN  
Northwest sophomore Kaitlyn Weis has four hits, six RBIs and a batting average of .364 on the season so far.

SOFTBALL  
CONTINUED FROM A12

Senior pitcher and Bearcat softball captain, Taylor Blackford, pitched against one of the best teams Division II has to offer and delivered some eye-drawing statistics. In six innings pitched, Blackford only allowed one earned run on four hits and 3 strikeouts.

“Their pitcher didn’t throw hard. It was an adjustment to a slow pitcher that we simply couldn’t make,” coach Ryan Anderson said. “We had four or five hard hits that if they fall, it’s a completely different ball game.”

The Bearcats make their home debut following their road trip in Arkansas with an overall record of 2-2 and will hit the road back down south on Friday, Feb. 16, for their six-game stretch in three days.

The Bearcats will have to face a huge non-conference opponent that sits atop the NCAA Division

II softball polls at No. 1 in the country in Minnesota State University Feb. 17.

“We need to work on things we need to do individually. We can’t control what pitchers start, or even what pitches they throw; we just have to have good at bats.”

Minnesota State is the reigning Division II national champions after sporting a 64-7 record in the 2017 season. They have proven to be a softball powerhouse and will not be an easy feat.

As the season is just begun, the focus for the softball team is looking forward to what lies ahead.

“The outlook for the year is super positive from all the girls, and that’s not just coming from this weekend,” graduate assistant Stephanie Bagwell said. “The girls know how to work together, and know the ultimate goal is for everyone to succeed.”

The Bearcats get back to the action Friday, Feb. 16 in a double header with Minnesota Duluth.



JOSH REXROAT | NW MISSOURIAN  
Maryville senior Jacob Search is one of four Spoofhounds who will compete in the MSHSAA Class 2 State Wrestling Tournament to begin Thursday.

Four Spoofhounds heading to state

TRENT SPINNER  
Chief Reporter | @trentspinner

Maryville wrestling intertwines stories of redemption and underdog qualifiers as it sends off four state-bound competitors.



Seniors Jackson Sanders and Jacob Search, as well as freshmen Connor Weiss and Kade Wilmes, qualified to the Class 2 Missouri State Wrestling Tournament Feb. 15-17 at Mizzou Arena.

The Spoofhounds have earned a healthy amount of diversity in their qualifiers as they look toward the grand stage and the test ahead. Though the tales are unique to each wrestler, the team will only go as far as the strength of their mindset and effort.

“These kids definitely look at the paper side of it, like this guy is this good and this guy is this good,” coach Kody Koster said. “The biggest thing is just keeping them positive; it’s just another guy weighing in at the same weight class.”

For three of the four wrestlers that earned a spot to compete, this will be their first time to engage in the thrills of the state tournament. Sanders is the lone Spoofhound to have previous experience at the competition. Sanders knows that with this time previously at the tournament, it becomes his job to guide the other Maryville wres-

tlers.

Sanders is searching for the opportunity to avenge his performance from last year’s state tournament, where he failed to secure a win in the 160-weight class.

“The first time you go to state, it’s kind of a shock, because of how big and how many people are there,” Sanders said. “I’m going to be there to calm their nerves and coach them up before they go onto the mat.”

Though these wrestlers are new on the scene, it does not mean that they don’t have plans of their own for the tournament. Two of these wrestlers come from the freshmen class, and are not just there for the experience.

Both Weiss and Wilmes have already defied the odds in the district tournament. Wilmes entered into districts as the sixth seed in the 126 weight class, and with only the top four advancing, a few upsets needed to happen for him to make it. Just like Koster preaches to his wrestlers, “in the post-season, anything can happen,” Wilmes did just that and pulled the upsets to claim fourth place.

For Weiss, the odds were stacked even higher against his favor. He entered into the district tournament unranked and overlooked by the papers, but was able to battle those odds to secure a fourth place finish in 138 pound weight class.

NEXT GAME
<b>MSHSAA State Championships</b> <b>@ Mizzou Arena</b> Feb. 15-17

“I’m pretty excited for it, it’s going to be different, but my excitement levels are up and I’m ready to go,” Weiss said. “Being a freshman, I want to just win one match, just take it one match at a time, see how it goes from there and do the best I can.”

The freshmen goals are set due to the fact that they have time to grow and get better, but for the seniors, this is their last ride to make it count.

The two seniors participating in the tournament is Search and Sanders. Search qualified after claiming the fourth place medal in 195-weight class. Sanders earned his bid for the state tournament when he took home the first place medal for the 170-pound weight class.

Now that he has gotten another year to prepare for the tournament, he is ready to take it by storm.

“I definitely want to bring home some hardware, that’s the main goal for me,” Sanders said. “I’m going to try a lot harder; this is my last one, and I want to go out with a bang.”

Women ready for obstacle ahead  
of season’s final home stretch

JOSH REXROAT  
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

After a crippling loss to Washburn, the Bearcats gear up to host two special nights at home.

The Bearcat women’s basketball (3-20, 2-13 MIAA) headed to Kansas Saturday, Feb. 10 to take on Washburn.

The Bearcats were rattled by the Ichabods, being outscored in the first half 51-15. The Bearcats made a small comeback in the second half but ultimately fell 84-54.

“That first half on Saturday, it was rough,” coach Buck Scheel said. “We weren’t playing well and they were playing really well, they were 63 percent overall from the floor... it was there day and we’ve all been there.”

The team looks to bounce back as the Bearcats host their last two home games of the season this week.

The Bearcats will take on Pittsburg State Thursday, Feb. 15 and will host Missouri Southern Saturday, Feb. 17.

Thursday is a special night for the Bearcats; the team will be honoring those who are fighting against Breast Cancer, for Breast Cancer awareness night.

“I think it is a great opportunity to play for a greater purpose,” Scheel said. “Over these past few years we’ve had a great turnout for that game, and plus everything that it generate



NEXT GAME
<b>Pittsburg State @ Northwest</b> Feb. 15 @ 5:30 p.m.
<b>Missouri Southern @ Northwest</b> Feb. 17 @ 1:30 p.m.

benefits somebody local I think that opportunity in itself should provide a lot of motivation.”

This will be the Bearcats second meeting with the gorillas this season. There last meeting the Bearcats fell 78-53 in Kansas.

Pittsburg State is sitting at second place in the MIAA with a 19-5 record and 12-3 in conference play.

“Pitt State is a very solid team with players that are very good at getting to the rim and players that can knock down shots on the outside,” Meyers said. “If we can just make them work for every shot and limit their offensive possessions by limiting their offensive rebounds.”

After Pittsburg State, the Bearcats will make a quick turnaround and play Missouri Southern for senior night, Saturday, Feb. 17.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT  
NWMISSOURI NEWS.COM

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# American Dreaming

## Track and field sophomore continues to shatter expectations

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Hiba Mahgoub’s life has been defined by perseverance in the face of adversity. The sophomore sprinter has the second fastest time in the 400 meter race in Northwest history, but her path to success does not start nor end on the track.

Mahgoub was born in Khartoum, Sudan, Africa. She moved to the United States in 2004, knowing some English, but not near as much as her American-born peers. Learning to read is hard enough as is but doing so in two languages simultaneously is exponentially more difficult.

“Coming to America, I knew a little bit of English,” Mahgoub said. “My parents knew they wanted to bring us here to America, so they put us in English-based schools. So, I learned my alphabet and my numbers and stuff, but I still had to learn to read and write, which was difficult coming to America, and I still struggle with it sometimes.”

Mahgoub, whose first language is Arabic, has lived in the United States for 14 years now, and she shows no sign of any accent in her dialect. Her English is clearer than many who have lived here their entire lives. Even so, learning the language was a difficult process.

“English is not an easy language to learn, so when I was first learning it, I had the worst time,” Mahgoub said. “With Arabic, everything is spelled the way you say it and it’s gender based, and then coming to America, there’s a whole bunch of different rules and different syllables, and all of that, and reading Arabic- it’s not like that.”

Understandably, Mahgoub’s English, specifically her reading and writing, weren’t always as good as they are now. Students in elementary school weren’t always understanding.

“I know when I was little, I struggled with reading. When the teacher wanted me to read out loud, everyone would say, ‘Oh, she can’t read,’” Mahgoub said. “It made me want to learn to read better just so I could prove kids wrong. They would think I’m not as smart as them just because I struggled with something, but it’s not that I was dumb, I just struggled with this one thing.”

Like many, Mahgoub has grappled with the thoughts and opinions of others for much of her life.

The insults thrown at her from unknowing peers were intended to be destructive, not encouraging. Someone forgot to tell Mahgoub that.

“I’ve always struggled with people thinking that I’m not as smart as I am,” Mahgoub said, with tears filling her eyes. “It just pushed me to do better in school and have better grades and study harder. I thought, ‘If I succeed in getting good grades, it will show people that I’m not actually as dumb as they think I am.’”

While the insults and name-calling Mahgoub endured in grade school undoubtedly had an effect on her character and drive to succeed, she also derives motivation from another source: her parents. Being first-generation migrants, Mahgoub’s parents have been a model of bravery and resilience for her entire life.

“I would say my biggest inspiration is my parents,” Mahgoub said. “To this day, they still struggle with things, but I would say I was raised pretty good. There was a never a time where I would ask my mom for something and she would say no. If she couldn’t do it, she would find a way. With my parents, they work as hard as they can to give us what we need and what we want so we can be successful later on in life, even though they’ve struggled to get to where they are.”

Mahgoub uses the inspiration to stay driven, even more-so than most college athletes. The sophomore is on the executive board for multiple student organizations, including the African Student Organization. Like every collegiate athlete, time management can be a challenge on a day-to-day basis. When it seems that there aren’t enough hours in the day, Mahgoub’s inherited resilience comes in handy.

“The hardest part for me is timing,” Mahgoub said. “I’m on the exec board of two different organizations, and I still want to do well in school, so I still like to study; I still like to read on my own time. But then doing track, it puts a toll on me and makes me more exhausted, but I love track and I’ll still do it the rest of my time at Northwest.”

Mahgoub’s coaches have praised and admired her work ethic and improvement as a runner since she arrived at Northwest last fall.

“Hiba’s grown a lot since last year, in her competitiveness and her desire,” coach Scott Lorek said.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT  
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN  
Sudan native Hiba Mahgoub contributed to the women’s 4x400 meter relay team’s fifth place finish Saturday in South Dakota.

# 6<sup>TH</sup> FASTEST 400 METER TIME IN THE NCAA

## Bearcats set marks at Pittsburg State, South Dakota State

JUSTIN QUICK  
Chief Reporter | @Jquick88

A split trip for indoor track and field to Brookings, South Dakota and Pittsburg, Kansas netted the Bearcats with two more provisional mark.

Sophomore Jordan Hammond stole the show Feb. 10 with her performance in the 400 meter dash. Hammond won the race with a time of 55.62. Not only did she win the race, but she made her way into Northwest’s record books for the second time.

Already holding the top spot in the 400 meter hurdles, Hammond topped the 400 meter dash record.

Hammond said the record means a lot, but she is looking forward to more.

“It means a lot more to me that it was a good time nationally more than just the record,” Hammond said. “Its motivating and lets me know that I am heading on the right track.”

Hammond recovered from mistake in her previous meet as she false started in the 400 meter dash. The false start disqualified her from competing in the event.

“I got a little too excited and went before the gun,” Hammond said. “It felt like the end of the world at the moment because I wanted to get a good time, but I think this weekend I was motivated that I could run a good race and

get a good time.”

Her record breaking time moved her into the eighth fastest time in all of Division II. Hammond was joined by freshman Mercedes Isaacson-Cover hitting provisional marks. Cover moved into second place in the Bearcats all-time triple jump record with a jump 38-9.00 taking second place.

Coach Scott Lorek said the focus in the last part of the season is to get passed the mindset of having limits.

“We wanna see some of our younger people grasp that idea of stepping up and that they can do it as a freshman,” Lorek said.

The men’s side saw freshman success with Armani Carmickle placing fifth in the triple jump,

reaching 46-10.75. Lorek and assistant coach Emily Peterson said training in the upcoming weeks will focus on continued improvement.

“These next two weeks we want to run fast and feel good,” Peterson said. “I think that in itself will take care of some of the flatness we had coming into this weekend.”

Deciding who to send to each meet was a key decision for Lorek and Peterson. The process depended on each individual athlete and what best fit them.

“It had a lot to do with logistics more than anything else,” Lorek said. “Unfortunately, there was not a competitive reason for that, it was just trying to fit everything in

NEXT GAME
<b>Nebraska Tune-Up @ Lincoln, NE</b> Feb. 16 @ All Day

on a confusing weekend.”

With conference right around the corner the goals have been laid out by Lorek and Peterson.

“We had a weird weekend with our sprinters being a little flatter than I thought we were going to be,” Peterson said. “A lot of those people will do the same events on Friday and hopefully they just feel a little bit better and can connect some things in their races to get a little confidence heading into the conference meet.”

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### NW MEN’S BASKETBALL

#### MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
NORTHWEST.....	21-2	13-2
Washburn.....	18-6	12-3
Central Missouri.....	19-5	11-4
Missouri Southern.....	16-8	11-4
Central Oklahoma.....	17-7	10-5
Fort Hays State.....	14-10	7-8
Pittsburg State.....	14-10	7-8
Lincoln.....	13-11	7-8
Nebraska Kearney.....	11-13	7-8
Lindenwood.....	14-10	6-9
Southwest Baptist.....	11-13	5-10
Emporia State.....	8-16	3-12
Northeastern State.....	7-17	3-12
Missouri Western.....	5-17	3-12

### NW WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

#### MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
Central Missouri.....	20-2	14-1
Pittsburg State.....	19-5	12-3
Nebraska Kearney.....	19-4	11-4
Central Oklahoma.....	19-5	10-5
Fort Hays State.....	19-5	10-5
Emporia State.....	15-7	10-5
Washburn.....	16-8	8-7
Southwest Baptist.....	15-9	7-8
Missouri Southern.....	10-13	7-8
Lindenwood.....	12-11	5-10
Northeastern State.....	9-13	5-10
Missouri Western.....	11-13	4-11
NORTHWEST.....	3-20	2-13
Lincoln.....	3-20	0-15

### NW BASEBALL

#### MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
Missouri Southern.....	3-1	0-0
Fort Hays State.....	5-2	0-0
Central Missouri.....	3-2	0-0
Missouri Western.....	4-3	0-0
Central Oklahoma.....	5-4	0-0
Lindenwood.....	3-3	0-0
Northeastern State.....	3-3	0-0
Pittsburg State.....	3-3	0-0
Washburn.....	3-3	0-0
Emporia State.....	3-4	0-0
Southwest Baptist.....	3-5	0-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	2-4	0-0
NORTHWEST.....	0-4	0-0

### NW SOFTBALL

#### MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
Washburn.....	7-2	0-0
Central Oklahoma.....	6-3	0-0
Emporia State.....	5-4	0-0
Missouri Western.....	2-2	0-0
NORTHWEST.....	2-2	0-0
Missouri Southern.....	3-3	0-0
Northeastern State.....	4-4	0-0
Pittsburg State.....	4-5	0-0
Central Missouri.....	4-6	0-0
Fort Hays State.....	2-5	0-0
Southwest Baptist.....	1-3	0-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	1-4	0-0
Lindenwood.....	0-0	0-0
Lincoln.....	0-6	0-0



# Boys boosted by defense and depth

JAMES HOWEY  
Chief Reporter | @How\_eyseit

The Maryville boys basketball team’s versatility and defense is shining, as the Class 3 District tournament is set to begin Feb. 20 at Hamilton High School.

The Spoofhounds (20-4) will be the No. 1 seed in their district and have held their last three opponents to under forty points. This included a 40-31 home victory over Mid-Buchanan Feb. 12, where Maryville didn’t score until four minutes before halftime.

“Defensively, I thought they kept at it, rotated well and contested shots well,” coach Matt Stoecklein said. “Very proud of our defensive effort the last two games.”

Junior Eli Dowis is often matched-up with the opposing team’s best player throughout the season. Stoecklein highlighted the critical role the junior plays for the defense.

“When he puts his mind to it, he can defend anywhere,” Stoecklein said. “Having that kind of player is a major help because he can defend so many types of players.”

Dowis said the team winning lately with a lack of offense is honestly encouraging.

“It’s just a morale booster for us to score forty points in the last two games and get a win,” Dowis said. “It just lets us know we might have to ride our defense if our offense isn’t following, and we have confidence in our defense.”

The depth of the Spoofhounds have been a factor all season but could even be expanding with the recent emergence of junior Mathew Madden. Madden played valuable minutes against the Dragons and hit two crucial 3-pointers.

Stoecklein said Madden has been more acclimated to the defensive system of Maryville late in the season.

“He is playing much better and smarter defense,” Stoecklein said. “That is where he has been behind, and he is now catching up. To have



JAMES HOWEY | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville junior Eli Dowis drives past his Mid-Buchanan defender in the Spoofhound’s 40-31 victory over the Dragons Monday.

him come off the bench is huge.”

Dowis said that no matter the night, anyone can be the difference maker of the Spoofhounds.

“We don’t really have role players because everyone can go out and be a star on any given night,” Dowis said. “We got three players that come off our bench that could start at most other schools.”

Stoecklein said a key for his team is for players to know when

they need to share the ball on certain nights.

“What the kids need to realize that it might not be my night, and that can be frustrating for a young kid,” Stoecklein said. “We just got to be happy for each other, regardless of the situation.”

Stoecklein did express how much the offense needs to meet the same level of play as the defense with the regular season coming to a close.

“Defensively, we are obviously doing very well, but now we really got to get our offense going,” Stoecklein said. “We’re way too athletic, quick and long to only put up forty points in both of the last two games.”

Maryville will play Brookfield Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in the first round of districts. Stoecklein said his team’s district is a tough challenge, with a number of teams that could advance to sectionals.

NEXT GAME

Maryville @ Savannah  
Feb. 16 @ 6:30 p.m.

“I think there are five teams, at least, that could come out of our district,” Stoecklein said. “We’re going to have to continue to be good defense and get better on offense to come out of that district.”

## Maryville readies to make waves in district tournament

TUCKER FRANKLIN  
Chief Reporter | @THEREAL\_tuckerf

Maryville girls basketball team wraps up its regular season with a flurry of games while it tries to upset a few teams in the district tournament.

Freshman Serena Sundell had herself a game Feb. 12 when the Spoofhounds (10-11) beat Cameron 55-34. Coach Quentin Albrecht said that Sundell was at her best against the Dragons.

“Serena had a really good night (Monday),” Albrecht said. “She was really in a rhythm shooting the basketball and by halftime she had 11 points, scored all nine of our points in the second quarter. Then, in the third quarter, she really went off and scored 16 points, and hit three 3’s and finished up her night with six points in the fourth quarter.”

Sundell had a historic night breaking two records while slaying the Dragons. Her 33 points in

the game proved to be the largest single-game point total in school history. Sundell came into Cameron with 400 points on the year. Her night pushed her season total to 433 which broke the Maryville single-season scoring record.

With the majority of the regular season in the rearview mirror, Junior Emma Baldwin said the team needs to focus on what they can control.

“We need to go out there and play our hardest every single minute of every single game,” Baldwin said. “We just need to play the game we know how to play, and control what we can control. If something doesn’t go our way, all we have to say is ‘so what? now what?’ We have to keep the intensity going.”

The Hounds travel to Hamilton Feb. 19 to take on Brookfield in the first round of districts. Albrecht explained the Hounds are in a good spot to make some waves.

“We have an eye on that dis-

trict tournament,” Albrecht said. “We feel very good going into the district tournament; we’ve been playing well and like our draw, we like our seed and we like how the bracket plays out. Our goal we set a few weeks ago was to make some noise and that’s all we want to do.”

Maryville was given the three seed in the Class 3 District 16 tournament. Along with sharing their coaches point of view, Baldwin explained the bond the team has created will help them in the post-season.

“We just want to go out and make some noise,” Baldwin said. “We just have to stick together and continue to push each other to play our hardest and play smart each

NEXT GAME

Maryville @ Savannah  
Feb. 15 @ 6:30 p.m.



DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville girls basketball opens up District Play in Hamilton Monday afternoon.


game from here on out.”

The junior varsity season will come to a close after the Feb. 15 game against Savannah, Albrecht said the main goal for the future is making sure the young core stays together.

“We talked a lot about reten-


tion,” Albrecht said. “We have 18 girls out, three of them will graduate, that gives us 15 underclassmen, and we want to retain all of them and add to those numbers. We not only want to increase the quality of those players but the quantity as well.”

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# Men confident despite abrupt wrinkle

**JOSEPH ANDREWS**  
Assistant Sports Editor | @Joe\_Andrews15

Northwest men's basketball faces an injury scare ahead of its final four games of the regular season.



Justin Pitts obtained an injury during his 40 minutes on the court at Emporia State (8-16, 3-12 MIAA) Feb. 7. The Bearcat Radio Network reported the injury as turf toe.

The Bearcats (21-2, 13-2 MIAA) chose to leave Pitts out of the starting lineup as a precaution against Washburn (18-16, 12-3 MIAA) Feb. 10.

The reigning NCAA Division II Player of the Year played for a season low, 16 minutes, in the game. It was the second time he missed a start this season.

Pitts' status for Feb. 15's matchup with Pittsburg State has not yet been determined.

"We're not a one-man band," coach Ben McCollum said. "Justin is the best player in the country; we love having him. I think he's the first to admit we're not a one man show."

The limitations on Pitts did not affect much of Northwest's performance against the Ichabods. The No. 6 Bearcats pulled off a 62-56 victory, adding to the list of impressive wins for Northwest this year.

The resume includes wins over four of the MIAA's top five teams. It also includes four success stories over programs within the Central Region.

Stack bold finishes over No. 1 Lincoln Memorial (23-1) and No. 12 Northern State (25-3), Northwest has plenty working for itself approaching postseason play.

"I would guess we have one of the toughest, if not the toughest schedule, in the country," Mc-



Northwest junior Joey Witthus pauses at the top of the key against his Washburn defender in the Bearcat's 58-50 win Saturday.

DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Collum said.

The first preliminary regional standings of the 2017-18 season lists Northwest as Central Region's No. 1 seed. The No. 2 team is Northern State.

If Northwest remains in this spot for the next three weeks, it has the potential to host the

regional tournament for the second consecutive season. Each region's top eight teams advance to the regional bracket.

"Regional rankings are the most important because that decides who gets to keep playing," McCollum said. "First through eighth, you're just trying to get

in that top eight. You're trying to make a run."

With four games remaining in regular season conference play, Northwest aims to strive for perfection. The stretch begins as Pittsburg State (14-10, 7-8 MIAA) and Missouri Southern (16-8, 11-4 MIAA) arrive to Maryville.

"We just want to focus on the things we do," senior Joey Witthus said. "Every game, we have stuff to clean up and fix. Each game, we got to make sure we come out with a lot of energy and fight."

SEE **WRINKLE** | **A9**



DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Infielder Kevin Handzlik takes a grounder during a makeshift practice at Bearcat Stadium due to recent field conditions.

# Baseball searches for renewed mental edge

**TRENT SPINNER**  
Chief Reporter | @trentspinner

After a slow start to the season, the Northwest baseball team is knocking off the rust with a mental approach.



The Bearcats are searching to rebound from a 1-5 start after various factors prolonged the period of figuring out who they are as a team.

The learning period for the Northwest baseball team has officially begun as they get to face real situational hitting for the first time. Hindered by the snow, the Bearcats could not do anything, but wait till the snow dissolved.

Though the snow has started to make way for the green grass of spring, it began just too late.

"It's a tough thing when your first at-bats outside are your first games," senior first baseman Kevin Handzlik said. "We do a lot of preparation inside, but you can only simulate so much, so its both knocking the rust off and trying to get comfortable."

With the first live hitting being against Arkansas Fort Smith, the Bearcats have struggled to put the bat to the ball and plate runs to help their pitching. The Northwest offense has stuttered at times leav-

ing the opportunity for the other team to take advantage, even in the slightest, against the pitching.

Facing off against three quality competitors from last year in Arkansas Fort Smith (6-0), Henderson State (3-3) and Lyon College (3-4). All three of these teams ended last season with more than 30 wins.

Arkansas Fort Smith last season fell in the postseason at the regional championship to Colorado Mesa (lost in the semifinals of the division 2 baseball bracket). The Bearcats could not perform off of their lack of repetition in the batting cages leaving vulnerable to attack.

"The teams early that we played were outstanding teams and of course they have been outside," Handzlik said. "It's only going to help us, the teams we played are really similar to the teams that are in the MIAA, so I think it's going to really help us in the long term."

With a new season comes a new array of mentality problems. The Northwest baseball coaching staff is putting their best foot forward in the mental aspect trying to improve it.

Hitting is one of the major aspects of baseball, where mental

NEXT GAME
<b>Northwest @ Cameron University</b> Feb. 17 (DH) 12 p.m. Feb. 18 1 p.m.

strength is needed to be successful. To counteract the mental stress, coach Darin Loe had the hitters write out their approach in each at-bat and how they will use that this week to better their skills.

"It's a thing of getting back and knowing what you need to work on and working hard towards those," Loe said. "We just are really changing our mindset to trusting the process and looking forward instead of back."

Even with the struggles that the Bearcats are going through, it's all about the positives to the players and coaches alike. One of the many positives that all of the Northwest baseball team agrees on is the quality starting pitching that they have gotten out of the starting rotation.

Along with that is the aspect that as the live pitching becomes everyday, the ability to square up a pitch comes easier to the players.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT **NWMISSOURIANS.COM**

# Softball sits at .500 after opening weekend, looks to improve over road trip

**TUCKER QUINN**  
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Bearcat softball traveled just over 303 miles south and made their season debut in Bentonville, Arkansas Feb. 8.



Oddly enough, Northwest softball opened its season against Arkansas Tech last year and hoped to come up with a different result. But the Bearcats fell short again with a final score of 11-6.

This didn't stop the Bearcats from having a strong performance against MIAA rival, Central Missouri in their next game in Bentonville. In 25 at bats, Northwest put up 12 runs and only left six stranded on base.

Last year, the Bearcats had a clean sweep of the Lady Mules, beating them both in the regular season by a score of 11-0, as well as routing them in the conference tournament, 11-2.

A strong pitching performance was also put up against the Mules. Sophomore pitcher, Rachel Smith, only allowed three earned runs on three hits and two walks in her five-inning outing.

Smith also pitched the following day and led the Bearcats to another win against Arkansas-Mon-

NEXT GAMES
<b>Northwest vs Minnesota State Duluth</b> @ Missouri Western Feb. 17 (DH) @ 2 p.m., 4 p.m.
<b>Northwest vs Minnesota State</b> @ Missouri Western Feb. 18 (DH) @ 2 p.m., 4 p.m.

ticello. In her five-innings on the mound, she gave up two earned runs on two hits and a walk, while striking out three.

The Bearcats faced a very tough opponent in Harding University Sunday, Feb. 9.

Harding was pre-season ranked No. 12 in the country and has many returning starters from their impressive playoff run last season.

Northwest posted a bearcat-sized fight in their match with the Harding Lady Bison but came up just short in a 1-0 defeat.

The only run scored in the game happened in the fourth inning after an RBI from Harding's catcher, Katie Carney, put one on the scoreboard then a stalemate ended the game.

SEE **SOFTBALL** | **A9**

## SPORTS BRIEF

### New soccer coach boasts six new signings

Northwest soccer coach Marc Gordon added six new signees Feb. 9, adding depth and consistency to a position needed most.

"I am very excited to announce the 2018 class," Gordon said. "This is a very balanced class position wise and I look forward to the great things that we will accomplish as we begin a new era of Bearcat soccer."

Gordon recruited three midfielders, two defenders and a goalkeeper.

Defender Tanith Beal attended Desoto High School and played for the Overland Park SC Blue Angels. Another defender in Lucy Kitta is from Papillion LaVista South who was with the Omaha Metro

Wolves club.

Jessie Brown, Macy Heckadon and Joanna Shaw round out the three midfielders for Northwest.

Brown is from Liberty North High School and played for FC Kansas City Academy. Shaw played for the Elite Girls Academy as a midfielder and a forward. She went to Lincoln East High School. Macy Heckadon is from Lee's Summit West High School and was a midfielder for the Sporting Lee Summit Academy club team.

Samantha Pesquiera is a goalkeeper from Shakopee High School who was a member of the Minnesota Thunder Academy.